

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method for treating the atria appendage comprising:

entering the chest cavity with a surgical instrument creating a surgical opening;

introducing a pericardial access device through said opening;

entering the pericardial space between the pericardium and the heart leaving the pericardium intact;

navigating an electrosurgery device to the atrial appendage within the intact pericardium;

activating the electrosurgical device to remodel the atrial appendage.
2. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said navigating step is carried out under visual guidance through the endoscopic system.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said electrosurgical device is a unipolar electrocautery scissors.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said electrocautery device is a bipolar electrocautery scissors.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said electrocautery device is a snare loop.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said electrocautery device includes at least one saline electrode.
7. (Original) The method of shrinking the atrial appendage comprising the steps:

entering the chest cavity with a surgical instrument creating a surgical opening;

introducing a pericardial access device through said opening of the type having an extended catheter body with an aspiration lumen for connecting to the pericardium;

entering the pericardial space between the pericardium and the heart;

navigating an electrosurgery device of the type having at least one saline electrode, to the atrial appendage;

activating the electrosurgical device while irrigating the atrial appendage with saline from the electrosurgery device, to remodel the atrial appendage.

[9]8. (Currently Amended) A method for treating the atrial appendage comprising:

entering the chest cavity with a surgical instrument creating a surgical opening;

introducing a pericardial access device through said opening;

entering the pericardial space between the pericardium and the heart;

navigating an endoscopic stapling device to the atrial appendage;

activating the stapling device to remodel the atrial appendage by closing off a portion of said atrial appendage.

[10]9. (Cancelled)